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REPORT

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**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

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ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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# TRAINING AND MANEUVERS, INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY, AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

## A. TRAINING AND MANEUVERS

### 1. Pre-Military Training

[redacted] the Czechoslovak Youth Organization (CSM - Ceskoslovensky Svaz Mladaze) [redacted]

[redacted] Young people between the ages of 14 to 26 were accepted. Monthly fee was five crowns (old currency). [redacted]

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[redacted] The only activities sponsored by it were about three dances a year and participation in parades on national holidays.

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[redacted] It was stressed that through military training given in SVAZARM men would be better prepared for army life. [redacted]

[redacted] at the airplane factory LET 01 in KUNOVICE (4903N-1728E) during Jan-Feb '54, [redacted] in the dining hall a poster (about 100 x 75 cm) picturing a bomber dropping bombs on civilian homes and a Red Cross worker carrying a child. It read: "Join the CO." ("Vstup do CO." "CO" may have been the abbreviation for Civilni Obrana - Civilian Defense). This poster was locally reproduced [redacted]

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[redacted] the Border Guards (PS-Pohranicni Straz) units were on the lookout for any foreign planes crossing Czechoslovak borders. Furthermore [redacted]

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[redacted] AAA Unit located in HORAZDOVICE (4919N-1343E) [redacted] in 1953 [redacted] entire unit manned listening posts near the Czech-German border in southwestern Bohemia. [redacted]

### 2. Garrison Training

For every week of the year, a training schedule was issued at LINE (4942N-1316E) airbase. [redacted]

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[redacted] Each schedule prescribed the exercises and work for the day. During good flying weather, generally from March to November, the flying and maintenance of airplanes were included in the daily routine. In case of inclement weather, alternate training was listed. It consisted mostly of close and extended order drill, calisthenics

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and refresher exercises on military training covered in basic training. Each group of specialists, such as airplane mechanics, assistant airplane mechanics, armorers, assistant armorers, electricians and radio mechanics, had its own schedule.

The only regular daily training, regardless of weather, occurred during a 15-minute period before work in the morning. A different subject was covered each day and subjects varied from week to week. They included political information (world news), about three times a week; CW training, generally referred to as B CH L (Bojove Chemicke Latky - Chemical War Material), during which men usually practiced donning the gas mask and the protective cape or reviewed nomenclature of gas mask, types of war gases and first aid, about once or twice weekly; close and extended order drill, once or twice a week; manual of arms with SMGs, about six times a month; and marksmanship with SMGs, about twice a month.

In addition to this daily morning training, all personnel - airmen, mechanics and clerks - had to attend political indoctrination lectures twice weekly. Each session lasted for two hours.

the firing range

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## additional information:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>No of Rounds</u>	<u>Type of Target</u>	<u>Type of Weapon</u>
Apr. '53	50 m.	3	Waist-up silhouette of a man, 1x1 m.	SMG (9-mm, Czech M25).
Nov. '53	25 m.	10	Bulls-eye, 25 x 25 cm.	Air rifle, Czech make
	25 m.	5	Man's head silhouette	Czech-make rifle referred to as malorazka (small caliber). Used rounds of about 6-mm. diameter.
Dec. '53	50 m.	3	Waist-up silhouette of a man, 1 x 1 m.	SMG (9-mm, Czech M25).

The firing range at LINE was located within the air-base area, in the former kaolin pits. This range had facilities for firing of pistols, SMGs and HMGs. HMGs were fired by pilots.

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During bad flying weather (December to February), infantry drills were conducted daily for eight hours and consisted of repetition of basic training subject material.

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The following subjects were covered:

a. Land Warfare Preparation (Pozemni Priprava)

About 16 hours per week. This phase included close and extended order drills and squad combat tactics. During combat tactics sticks instead of rifles were carried, and rocks to simulate grenade tossing were used.

b. Technical Training (Technicka Skoleni)

About 12 hours per week. Instructions in classes on such subjects as airplane engines were conducted. Visual aids, such as charts, were used.

c. Political Education (Politicke Skoleni)

Four hours per week were devoted to this subject throughout the year.

d. Engine Maintenance (Konservace Motoru)

One day per week was set aside for hangar work. During this period, airplane engines were worked on and checked.

e. Obstacle Course (Prekaskova Draha)

[redacted] unit went over it about once every two weeks. Normally rifles with fixed bayonets were to be carried the entire length of the course.

At other times that portion of the obstacle course which prescribed the application of close combat tactics with fixed bayonets on dummies was omitted.

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The obstacle course was about 450 m. long. Men began it by climbing over a wall about two meters high; crawling under a barbed wire tunnel, 10 to 15 m. long and about 50 cm. above the ground; and walking over a log about eight meters in length and resting on two poles about 160 cm. above the ground. A three-meter broad jump followed, after which another obstacle built out of logs about 1 1/2 m. high had to be climbed over and three hurdles, about 90 cm. high and about two meters apart, had to be jumped. Next followed thrust and withdrawal of the bayonet (fixed on a rifle) upon a straw-filled dummy, jumping over a ditch about one meter wide and hitting another dummy with a horizontal butt stroke. To complete the course, three dummy grenades had to be thrown into windows of a house from a distance of about 25 m, and a two-meter-wide ditch had to be cleared.

3. Basic Training

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[redacted] eight weeks of basic infantry training. While in the second week of training, the entire unit had chest X-rays taken.

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in the arm. Second and third injection were given in the chest respectively.

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the Second Company was composed of about 120 recruits. The company was divided into three platoons and the platoons into squads of 10 to 12 EM each. There were about 15 instructors (who supplemented cadre) training company, all of whom were air force personnel in their second year of service. These instructors were in charge of individual squads. After completion of basic training, the instructors returned to LINE airbase, where some performed clerical and guard duties and others worked at the base post office.

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#### a. Daily Schedule

daily basic training schedule was as follows:

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0500 - 0515	Reveille and calisthenics
0515 - 0545	Personal hygiene and barracks clean-up, inspection in ranks
0545 - 0630	Breakfast
0630 - 1200	Drill
1200 - 1300	Noon meal
1300 - 1430	Compulsory sleep
1430 - 1700	Drill
1700 - 1800	Free time
1800 - 1900	Evening meal
1900 - 2100	Group activity (masova oinnost) - practiced for singing, dramatic, and chess clubs
2100 - 2110	Company formation - at this time, miscellaneous orders were read
2110 - 2120	Marching and singing in the caserne yard (this exercise was to bring the soldiers' day to a "joyful close")
2120 - 2145	Clean-up and preparation for inspection
2145 - 2200	Stand-by inspection in barracks
2200	Taps

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## b. Basic Training Subjects

[redacted] subjects covered during basic training.

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**1st Week:** Close order drill, military courtesy, guard duty, military law and regulations. Political indoctrination - two two-hour sessions. Lectures stressed that the Red Army was an example for the Czechoslovak Army and that the soldier was guarding the worker's interest.

**2d Week:** Extended order drill without weapons on squad and company level; grenade throwing from standing, kneeling and prone positions to a distance of about 25 m, and lectures on composition of grenades, their effects and usage. [redacted] there were two types of grenades; offensive (utečni) and defensive (obranny). About 12 hours were spent in grenade (dummy) throwing. First instructions in chemical warfare were also given during this week. See par. 4a, below.

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**3d Week:** Personal hygiene (conducted by a medical officer), military law, extended order drill and lectures.

**4th Week:** Rifles were issued. [redacted] an old German rifle, M 1936, in good condition. About a week later, these German rifles were exchanged for Czech M1938 rifles.

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[redacted] the old German or Czech rifles were available for issue to basic trainees. When they were first issued, both types were distributed in the company. Later it was decided that individual companies should have the same type of weapons, so an exchange between companies was accomplished. Training that week included disassembly, assembly, and nomenclature of the rifle, marksmanship exercises, and firing positions. Trainees also fired 10 rounds from air rifles at a 25 m. distant bulls-eye target, 25 x 25 cm, from the prone position.

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**5th Week:** Study in assembly, disassembly, and nomenclature of 9-mm SMCs, M1923 and M1925 marksmanship exercises were held and firing was practiced with wooden rounds. Instruction in chemical warfare was also given.

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[redacted] During the week, trainees were sworn in to the Army in the presence of some officers and workers.

**6th Week:** One day was spent on the range firing the rifle. Five rounds were fired; two for zeroing in, three for record. Firing was from a prone position at a bulls-eye target, 1 x 1 m. in size. Other training included practice SMC firing with wooden rounds, routine basic drills and lectures.

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**7th Week:** One day was spent firing the SMG on the range. Three rounds were fired at a waist-up target at a 50 m. range from the prone position. Exercises in patrolling were practiced, and routine basic training was conducted.

**8th Week:** The last week of basic training featured a rifle-squads-in-attack demonstration (see par. (1) below), review of basic subjects, and a machine gun nest attack exercise in squad tactics (see par. (2) below).

#### (1) Demonstration of Rifle Squads in Attack

During Christmas holidays in 1953, a rifle-squads-in-attack demonstration was held for trainees and visitors. Five rifle squads participated in these exercises. Instructors took leading roles, and they were assisted by selected trainees. The area of demonstration was about 300 m. long.

One rifle squad defended an HMG nest, while the other four advanced upon it. The first and fourth squads advanced from the flanks, while the second and third moved from the front. The first line of fire was about 150 m. in front of the objective, and the second was about 100 m. away. Bayonets were fixed about 50 m. before the objective.

#### (2) Squad Tactics

The closing exercise conducted during the last week of basic training started at about 0730 hours. A combat alert (bojovyy poplach) was sounded, and each RM fell out with full field pack. This included shelter half, two blankets, toilet articles, extra pair of shoes, socks, change of underwear, mess kit, canteen filled with water, envelope addressed to next of kin and containing a sheet of writing paper, 10 crowns (old currency), 10 cigarettes and belt with leather pouches for ammunition. Gas mask and rifle were also carried.

After about a two-kilometer march, the company sent out pairs of scouts to its front, rear, and right and left flanks. The signal for an air attack, a long whistle, was given several times, and the troops took cover in nearby woods and bushes.

After a march of about six kilometers, the attack made by squads upon an MG nest started from the line of departure. On the command of squad leader, "Organize squads for attack!" ("Druzstvo k boji organizovat!"), each soldier moving in the squad formation named the position he was assigned to hold. The squad consisted of 7 to 10 RM - the squad leader, who was armed with a pistol; the LMG gunner; assistant LMG gunner and leader, armed with an SMG; sharpshooter (vytechni strelec), and about six riflemen (bojovniki).

On the command, "Squad attack!" ("Druzstvo k boji!"), squads formed a line of skirmishers. The LMG crew first advanced to the right of the squad leader, with the remainder of squad covering them, and then the riflemen advanced one by one to the right and left of the squad leader.

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Upon the next command, "Squad forward attack!" ("Druzstvo k boji v pred!"), advances by the LMG crew and riflemen were directed by the squad leader. The advance movements were all done in leaps and bounds and took advantage of natural covers. A four- to six-meter interval was to be maintained between each rifleman.

The first firing line was about 250 m. in front of the objective; the second was about 100 m. away. Bayonets were fixed about 50 m. in front of the objective. Each man carried 55 dummy rounds, and two or three men in each squad had smoke grenades (dymovnice). The latter was a cylindrical cardboard box, 10 x 15 cm, of rose color. Its top was taped over with cloth. This tape was torn off before the grenade was tossed forward. About five seconds after being thrown, the grenade ignited and then a rose color smoke poured out from it. The smoke lingered in the area for about half an hour. Hand grenades (delobuch) with very small detonating charge were also thrown during the advance.

The entire exercise lasted about an hour.

#### 4. Specialized Training

##### a. Chemical Warfare

During basic training and subsequent assignment, [redacted] issued the old German World War II one-piece gas mask, which was carried in a metal container.

[redacted] a new type Czech mask was to be issued. No further details.

During the third week of [redacted] basic training, [redacted] classes on chemical warfare. These instructions were conducted by one of the cadre, an air force corporal, who had graduated from a [redacted] NCO School. He was not a CW specialist, but he was a graduate of a [redacted] chemical industrial school (four-year course).

More classes on CW were conducted during the fifth week [redacted] 15-minute refresher classes were held about once or twice a week. [redacted] the following information from these fragmentary instructions.

War gases were divided into poison gases (otravne), irritant gases (drazdivne) and choking gases (dusive). [redacted] gases by names: iperit, lewisite and tear gas (slzotvorny).

[redacted] During basic training the CW instructor mentioned that upon assignment to their

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regular units EM would get a chance to smell different types of gases via a special "sniff set."

gas mask container included a first aid packet in which were a pair of goggle-type glasses and a tube of old German ointment.

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it was to be applied to the skin in case of contact with vesicant gases. war gases were disseminated by means of spray from an airplane, hand grenades, and artillery shells.

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a protective cape (plastenka) which was merely a loose sheet of non-transparent synthetic material treated with some kind of grease chemical. It measured about 2½ x 1 m, and was folded in squares to fit into a 27- x 16-cm. canvas envelope. To don the cape, a soldier was instructed to make sure that he faced downwind. Next, he had to firmly grip two opposite corners of the cape, step on a third, and cover himself with it.

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the signal for donning the gas mask in combat was the squad leader's action of holding his mask above his head.

After the Sep. '53 "Battle Preparedness Test" , an order from the Ministry of Interior (sic) directed that land warfare preparatory training (pozemni priprava), which included CW, was to be stressed. Consequently, more CW classes were conducted at LINE airbase.

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airplane mechanics had to wear gas masks for short periods while working. Due to an accident which caused a damaged wing while parking an airplane in a hangar, this practice was discontinued in the early part of Oct. '53.

#### b. Atomic War Training

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corps officers in PRAGUE had already received atomic warfare training. No further information.

#### c. Field Training and Maneuvers

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**B. INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY**

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existence of the following security forces in Czechoslovakia.

**1. Border Guard (PS-Pohranicni Straz)**

PS troops were entrusted with guarding Czechoslovak borders. They received infantry basic training and then performed border guard duty. They lived in barracks and wore olive drab uniforms similar to those of the Czech army. Only the shoulderboards and caps were of light green material. Their distinctive insignia was a wolf-hound head worn on blouse lapels. Rank designations were the same as those of the army.

**2. Interior Guard (VS-Vnitřni Straz)**

Similar to the PS, VS members also received basic infantry training, lived in barracks and wore uniforms of the same color and design as the army. Their caps were of light blue material, and shoulderboards were of a violet-red color. NGO rank designations were the same as those in the army.

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Members of the VS guarded factories producing defense material, railroad tunnels, and radio stations.

Membership in both PS and VS consisted of either men who were drafted into the organizations for their regular compulsory service or who voluntarily continued serving in either guard organization upon completion of their compulsory military service.

**3. Interior Security (VB-Vnitřni Bezpečnost)**

The VB was strictly a civilian guard performing security duties in towns and cities. Its members wore dark blue uniforms and breeches and high boots.

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they wore red shoulderboards with stars (color unknown) for rank designation. VB men were armed with pistols, and at night with SMGs. VB members were men who had completed their compulsory military service.

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## C. PASSIVE ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENSE

[redacted] a new underground air raid shelter, capacity for about 50-80 people, near the factory area. No further information.

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## D. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

1. Deactivation of Reserve Officer Schools in Czechoslovak Army

In Aug. '53, graduates of a Reserve Officers' School (SDZ-Skola Důstojníku v Zaloze) in MIKULAS (formerly LIPTOVSKY SVATY MIKULAS) (4905N-1937E) [redacted] theirs was the last graduating class and that the SDZ schools were to be discontinued in the Czechoslovak Army. No further information.

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2. Experimentation with Tarasnice

[redacted] airmen at LINE airbase, [redacted] were on DS at the Air Force Experimental Institute (LVU-Letecký Vyzkumny Ustav) in PRAGUE. There they assisted in the trials of attaching a tarasnice (latest Czechoslovak anti-tank weapon) underneath the wing of an unknown type of plane. But the idea was given up, since the vibration and pressure caused by the tarasnice upon discharge of a round crushed the wing.

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